

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 /019 W  
-----013090 230837Z /10  
R 230633Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4203

UNCLAS TEHRAN 7512

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BTIO IR  
SUBJ: ARCHITECTURAL OPPORTUNITY: INFORMAL  
PRE-QUALIFICATION

1. A CONSULTANT FOR THE EMPRESS' SPECIAL BUREAU HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SEVERAL AMERICZN ARCHITECTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USDOC HANDLING, OR PASSING TO WASHINGTON OFFICE OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, AS APPROPRIATE, A REQUEST FOR THE INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS LISTED TO PROVIDE BROCHURES/ PORTFOLIOS INDICATING EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS PROJECTD AND EXPERIENCE. THIS REQUEST SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS FORMAL PREQUALIFICATION FOR ANY PARTICULAR PROJECT BUT AS A MEANS OF ACQUAINTING STAFF OF THE BUREAU WITH CAPABILITIES. A NUMBER OF IRANIAN ARCHITECTS WHO WORK WITH THE BUREAU AND HAVE STUDIED IN THE UNITED STATES DREW UP THE LIST.

2. BACKGROUND: THE EMPRESS' SPECIAL BUREAU IS A SECRETARIAT FOR HANDLING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MATTERS IN WHICH THE EMPRESS HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST. THE BUREAU'S PARTICIPATION RANGES FROM ANSWERING CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO HER MAJESTY TO FULL-SCALE INVOLVEMENT IN AND SPONSORSHIP OF LARGE-SCALE PRO-  
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JECTS. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE ORGANIZATION, DEVELOPMENT AND SPONSORSHIP OF THE NEGARESTAN MUSEUM, A TEHRAN MUSEUM OPENED LAST YEAR WHICH DISPLAYS SIGNIFICANT EX- AMPLS OF PAINTINGS AND ARTIFACTS OF THE QAJAR DYNASTY. WE ASSUME SPECIAL BUREAU'S INTEREST IN ARCHITECTS IS RELATED TO PLANNING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS SIMILAR TO THE NEGARESTAN MUSEUM BUT AS YET UNSPECIFIED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM ARCHITECTS WHOSE NAMES ARE LISTED BELOW EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, AS APPROPRIATE, THAT IF THEY WISH TO RESPOND TO THE BUREAU'S REQUEST THEY SHOULD FORWARD MATERIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

MR. FARIBORZ MEHRAFSHANI, ARCHITECT  
C/O SPECIAL BUREAU OF HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY  
82 IRANSHAHR AVENUE, TEHRAN, IRAN  
(TELEPHONE 826263)

ARCHITECTS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY NAME ARE (ADDRESSES NOT PROVIDED): CHARLES MOORE, RALPH RALPHSON, PHILIP JOHNSON, KEVIN ROCHE, ROBERT VENTURI, PAUL RUDOLPH, WORKS (FRANK KUPPER, CRAIG HUGETTE), ROGERS AND PAINO, THE BUFFIL GROUP, (FNU) UPSEN, AND RAMIREZ VASQUEZ. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING RESULTS OF CONTACT FOR TRANSMISSION TO SPECIAL BUREAU.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS A TYPICALLY VAGUE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED QUOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNQUOTE. WE NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS HAVE MADE PRESENTATIONS TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE AND TIME FOR PROJECTS WHICH HAVE NEVER MATERIALIZED, AT LEAST IN THE FORM  
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DISCUSSED WITH ARCHITECT (PIRATING OF AND SYNTHESIS OF DESIGNS IS NOT UNKNOWN). HOWEVER, DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES OFTEN DEVELOP BY CIRCUITOUS ROUTES AND ANY EXPOSURE IN THE IRANIAN MARKET COULD BEAR FRUIT AT A LATER DATE. ARCHITECTS REQUESTED, AND ANY OTHERS OF SIMILAR STATURE AND EXPERIENCE, MAY WISH TO SUPPLY ALREADY-PREPARED BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR WHATEVER IT MAY BE WORTH.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
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